

Introduction to Dads Matter-HV Curriculum: Engaging Fathers to Boost Home Visiting Outcomes

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October 25, 2020



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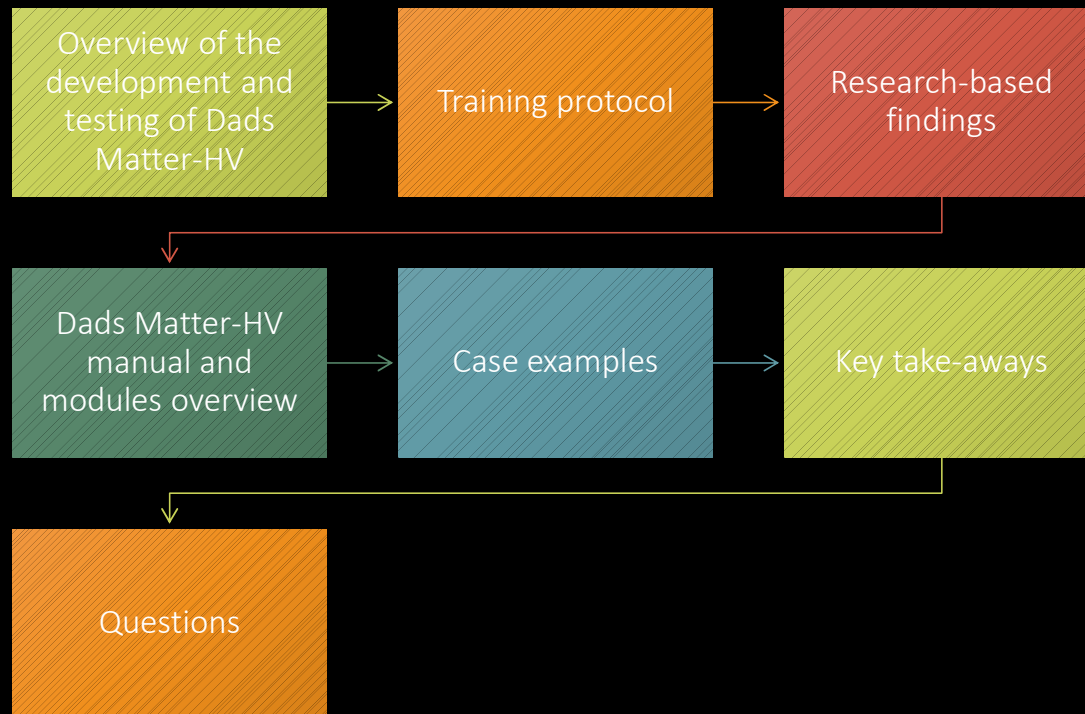
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Agenda

Motivation for the Development of Dads Matter-HV (2010-2014)

Growth of home
visitation

Fathers and child
maltreatment risk

Fathers and
related child
outcomes

Fathers shape
effectiveness of
home visitation

Father presence in
services generally
unknown



Development of Dads Matter-HV

1. Search of existing literature to identify fathering influences that promote or hinder child and family outcomes
2. Identification of evidence-supported strategies to promote fathers' involvement in home visiting and related programs
3. Focus groups with fathers, mothers, home visitors, and home visitor supervisors
4. Pilot testing with two home visiting programs in Chicago (Parents as Teachers and Early Head Start)
5. Randomized controlled trial with 17 home visiting teams in Chicago (Parents as Teachers, Healthy Families America, Early Head Start)

Study Eligibility

Biological father geographically accessible and potentially engageable in services

Mother and father at least 15 years old

At the point of home visitation service initiation

Fluent in English or Spanish

Free of any major mental illnesses in which psychosis is involved

Free of prior or current child protective services involvement

Child Age:

Pilot: Mother in 3rd Trimester or Child <2 years;

RCT: Mother at any pregnancy stage or Child <2.5 years

Receipt of Dads Matter-HV enhanced home visiting services is associated with:

-Increased father engagement in home visiting

-Improved mother-father relationship quality

-Reduced stress for mothers and fathers

-Increased father involvement

-Reduced risk for child maltreatment

Findings from Dads Matter-HV Studies



Dads Matter-HV Manual

Design Principles

Complement don't replace existing services

Modular design accommodates varying home visiting models

Content deliverable by paraprofessionals

Flexible approaches for a variety of family structures and relationships

Family centered and father inclusive from the start and ongoing

Revisit father engagement continuously if at first engagement is not advisable or successful

Dads Matter Service Goals

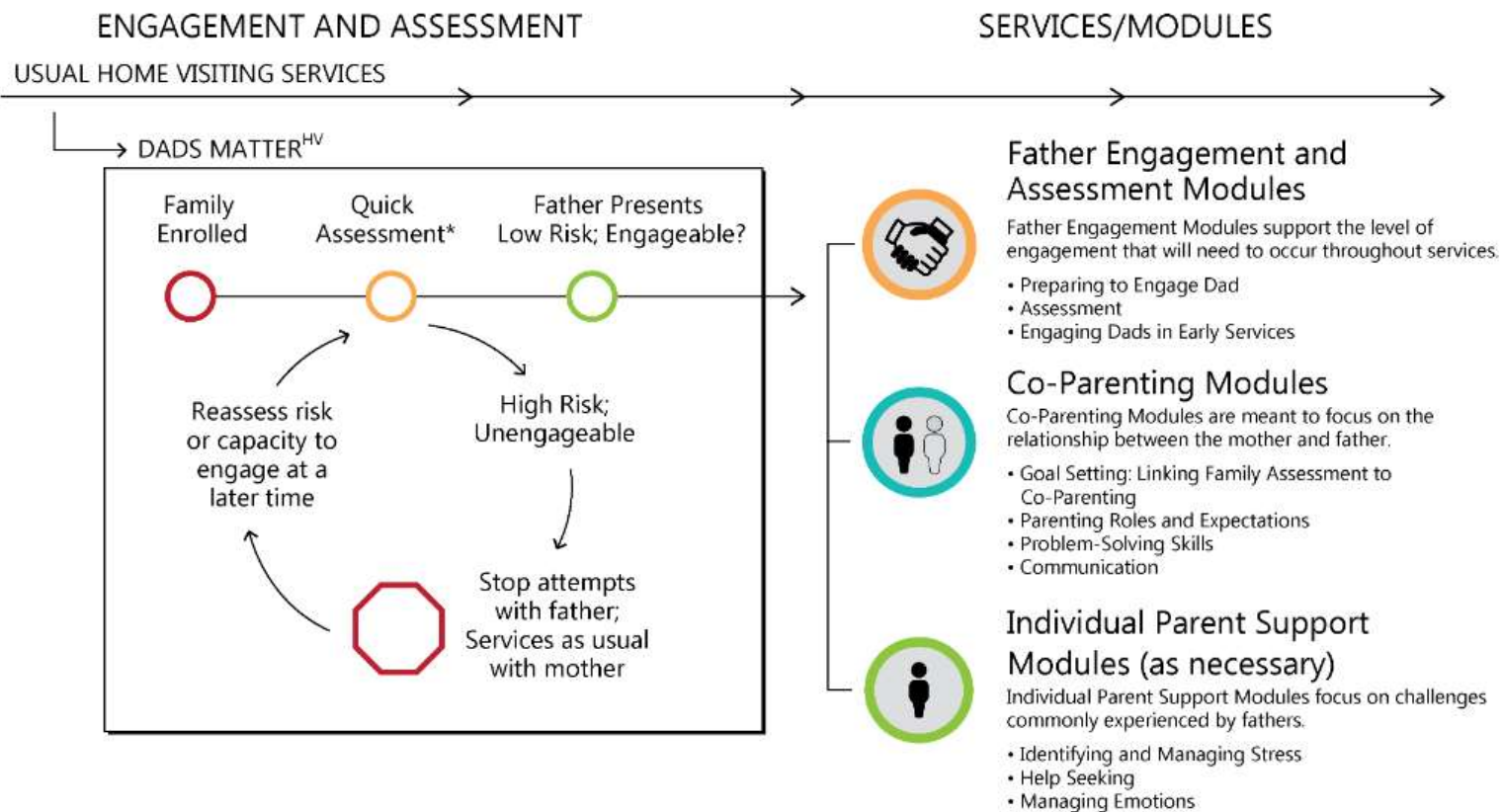
Assess father's role in the family and the ways this can be improved, managed, or enhanced

Engage fathers in services when appropriate, and in a supportive and productive co-parenting role with the mother

Build an effective co-parenting team between the mother and the father in support of the child

Provide direct support to the father re: managing the stresses and the challenges of being a father

Dads Matter^{HV} Service Flowchart



Training Protocol (8 months to full implementation)

1. One full day training in person or two half days virtually on the manualized intervention (teams of home visitors and supervisors)
2. Consultation calls once per month to support implementation while initially using the intervention with 1-2 families (teams, or supervisors of multiple teams in train-the-trainer model)
3. Fidelity tracking during implementation
4. Half day booster training in person or virtually (teams)

Fidelity Tracking

Dads Matter^{HV} Service Log
(Fidelity Tool)

Dads Matter Service Log Use this as necessary to keep track of Dads Matter^{HV} use when working with parents.

DATE OF CONTACT: ____ / ____ / ____
Month Day Year

TYPE OF CONTACT: ☐ Phone ☐ Face-to-face
☐ Other (specify: _____)

WHO DID YOU WORK WITH DURING THIS CONTACT? (Check ☒ all that apply)

☐ Biological mother (of at least one child) ☐ Target child/children
☐ Biological father (of at least one child) ☐ Other (specify: _____)

Mark with a check ☒ any of the following you did during your contact with the child's biological mother and/or father

Father	Mother	ASSESSMENT
		Assessed risks and strengths associated with the mother-father relationship
		Assessed father's risks and strengths
		Assessed whether or not father and mother are able to participate in visits together
		FATHER ENGAGEMENT
		Provided something specifically to the father (information, materials, activity, note) during

Training is Technique, but also Addressing Bias

Sources

- Own lived experiences
- Work experiences
- Organizations/Models

Activities

- Organizational Readiness
- Training and Discussions
- Consultation calls



Overview: Engaging Dads in Early Services

TIMING AND APPLICATION:

This section will help you: 1) engage dads during the initial weeks of visits and 2) assist



Overview: Preparing to Engage Dad

Engagement Strategies



Organizational/Program Readiness

Referrals

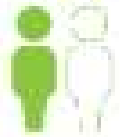
Intake

Communications to families

Spaces

Leadership commitment

PREFERRED



Conjoint:

Parents work together

NEXT BEST



Blended:

Work conjoint (when possible) and individual; information shared

LESS PREFERRED



Individual:

Work separate and individual; information shared

Assessment: Relationship Status, Domestic Violence Risk, Father Involvement, etc.



FATHER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES-Control Group

Incentives

Leave him information

Tell him he's needed/important

Communicate through mom

FATHER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES-Intervention Group

Talk to him

Make eye contact

Leave things for him

Communicate through Mom

Specifically/explicitly invite him

Tell him he's needed/important

Referrals (jobs etc.)

Using hands-on activities

Use technology

Being there/consistent/building trust

Giving him information

Providing opportunities to interact with other dads


Explaining benefits of his involvement

Using "other" activities: holiday parties, family events, etc.

Respect/acknowledge his expertise

Consider schedules

Co-Parenting Modules



Overview: Communication

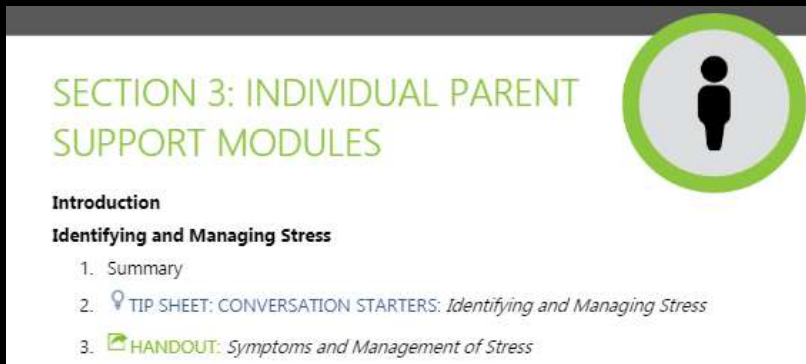
TIMING AND APPLICATION

Healthy communication is important for any parenting team and is something that can be constantly improved. This module sets up skills that can help with successfully navigating the problem-solving module and can be used as the need is identified or returned to throughout home visiting services.

RATIONALE



Communication is a key component of a healthy relationship and is essential for

Co-Parenting and Individual Support Modules Structure



SECTION 3: INDIVIDUAL PARENT SUPPORT MODULES

Introduction
Identifying and Managing Stress

1. Summary
2.  TIP SHEET: CONVERSATION STARTERS: *Identifying and Managing Stress*
3.  **HANDOUT:** *Symptoms and Management of Stress*

The slide features a green header bar at the top. To the right of the title is a circular icon with a black silhouette of a person. The content is organized into a list with icons: a lightbulb for tip sheets and a document for handouts.



Introduction (timing, purpose, etc.)



Tip Sheets



Handouts



Conversation Starters

Case Example #1

Parents living together with no perceived barriers

DM: Engagement strategies -- Worker uses engagement strategies from the beginning

Worker: Observes dad comes to visits, somewhat interested but unengaged in visits

DM: Leave/give the father materials -- "Worker gives him "homework" which is a child assessment (e.g. the Ages and Stages Questionnaire)

Dad completes and parents together have conversation with worker about family participation

Case Example #2

Parents not together; relationship very strained but both parents care for the child during the week

DM: After presented with the services, worker asks mother (only one seeking the services initially) if father would like the information as well. Father agrees and both want information but don't want to be in the same place at the same time.

Worker: As part of the home visiting time, calls the father with the mother at the end of the visit to discuss the topics covered and the child's development/etc.

Case Example #3

Organization is successfully working with some fathers in families. During a training...

Organization: “We usually just do a child goal and a mother goal.”

DM: Challenge them to consider goals and goal planning with the father by reframing goals “for the family” or for “both parents” and creating new, or adapting rigid paperwork

Key Take-Aways

Fathers and mothers can be engaged together in home visiting services, but it takes:

Flexibility

Creativity

Persistence



Key Take-Aways

Home visitors will say that they generally value fathers, but they need consistent support and encouragement to identify and address barriers

- Practice

- Training on specific strategies

- Cueing/asking

- Supervision/leadership



Dads Matter-HV Caveats

1. The intervention has only been tested with fathers and mothers biologically related to their child
2. Fathers who are engaged prenatally do not benefit from the intervention
3. Research has been conducted in Chicago only and primarily Black and Mexican American sample

Adaptation and Future Work

Current Adaptations in Progress

- Session stand-alone integrated with group-based intervention (Nurturing Dads and Partners Program)
- Doula

Online Training Development

Online Training Portal

Dads Matter Welcome back, John User [Log Out](#)

[My Dashboard](#) [Binder](#)

- Section 1: Introduction
- Section 2: Concerns and Risks
- Section 3: Engagement**
- Section 4: Co-parenting
- Section 5: Individual Parent Support
- Section 6: Conclusion

ENGAGEMENT


[Replay](#)

Quick Review:

Conversation Starters <small>Printable Download</small>	Engagement Ideas Menu <small>Printable Download</small>
Navigating Scenarios <small>Practice Your Skills</small>	Engagement Ideas <small>Things to Try</small>

Dads Matter **Module 2: Concerns and Risks**

YOUR TURN Think about your own biases and preconceived notions about dads. Rate how comfortable you are approaching each dad below.



How comfortable are you approaching this dad?

Not at all comfortable Somewhat uncomfortable Not sure Somewhat comfortable Very comfortable

[Back](#) [Continue](#)



Questions?

Thank you!

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